

The proposed action of Sinclair Broadcasting to air a blatantly biased documentary immediately prior to the presidential election exemplifies the threat to democracy inherent in media consolidation. When a media giant can force feed consumer-citizens its anti-Kerry bias and label it "news", freedom of speech and the press is grossly distorted. This is advertising, not news, and should be clearly presented as such.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.